Amendments to the Mines and Minerals Act

2294. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether some State Governments are putting pressure on the Centre Government to amend the existing Mines and Minerals (R&D) Act and Mineral Concession Rules;

(b) if so, names of those State Governments and the reasons why suchi amendments are sought by them; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISETB OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OP MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c)' The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 was amended recently and the amendments were brought into force on the 10th February, 1987. Consequent amendments to the Mineral Concession (Rules, 1960 were also made in 1987 and 1988.

Proposals for amendment to the provisions of the Act and the Rules have been received from Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa. Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These proposals have been processed. Most of the proposed amendments to the Act pertain to the *new* provisions and it would be rather premature to consider amending or rescinding those provisions. Some amendments to the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 are proposed to be made shortly.

Plan to reduce the child labour in the country

2295. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a timebound legal action plan to reduce the Child Labour in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken positive action on such plan; and

(d) if so, what are the results therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVTYA): (a) to (d) The Government have already enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to prohibit the employment of children below fourteen years of age in certain specified occupations and processes and to regulate the conditions of work of children in those employments in which they are not prohibited from working. ■ The enforcement of the various provisions of the Act will be a continuous process. To ensure proper implementation, the State Governments and Union Territories, responsible for the enforcement of the various laws and legal provisions relating to child labour, have been addressed from time to time.

Setting up of Food Storage Depots in Maharashtra

2296. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Food Storage Depots of **F.C.I.** at Chandrapur and Garhchiroli (Maha-t rashtra) under tribal sub-plan in the seventh five year plan period;

(b) the names of the place where these centres are functioning; and

(c) the number of centres likely to be set up alongwith the names of the places where likely to be set up?